

What is claimed is:

1. A method for monitoring a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

i) generating a data packet from the vehicle using a wireless appliance, the data packet comprising numerical diagnostic data from a computer in the vehicle;

ii) transmitting the data packet over an airlink with the wireless appliance so that the data packet passes through a network and to a host computer system;

iii) processing the data packet with the host computer system to generate numerical diagnostic data; and

iv) displaying the numerical diagnostic data on a web site hosted on the internet, the web site comprising a series of pages corresponding to individual vehicles and a series of pages corresponding to a group of vehicles.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the processing step further includes extracting at least one of the following vehicle parameters from the data packet: numerical data, an alphanumeric text message, an active or pending diagnostic trouble code, a vehicle identification number.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the processing step further includes processing at least one of the vehicle parameters with a database software.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the processing step further includes generating a set of data that comprises an alphanumeric text message.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the displaying step further comprises displaying the alphanumeric text message on the web page.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the method further includes the step of sending an electronic mail message that comprises all or part of the alphanumeric text message.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein the vehicle parameter is an active or pending diagnostic trouble code, and the alphanumeric text message describes the active or pending diagnostic trouble code.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the alphanumeric text message comprises a 5, 6, or 7-digit code that describes the active or pending diagnostic trouble code.

9. The method of claim 4, wherein the numerical data generated by the vehicle comprises one of the following:
numerical data generated by a sensor in the vehicle,
numerical data generated by a computer within the vehicle.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the numerical data includes at least one of the following numerical parameters: diagnostic trouble codes, vehicle speed, fuel level, fuel pressure, miles per gallon, engine RPM, mileage, oil pressure, oil temperature, tire pressure, tire temperature, engine coolant temperature, intake-manifold pressure, engine-performance tuning parameters, alarm status, accelerometer status, cruise-control status, fuel-injector performance, spark-plug timing, and a status of an anti-lock braking system.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the processing step further comprises processing at least one numerical parameter from the numerical data with a mathematical algorithm.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the processing step further comprises comparing at least one numerical parameter with at least one numerical parameter generated at an earlier point in time.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the displaying step further comprises displaying at least one numerical parameter and at least one numerical parameter generated at an earlier point in time.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the processing step further comprises comparing at least one numerical parameter with at least one predetermined numerical value.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the displaying step further comprises displaying at least one numerical parameter and at least one predetermined numerical value.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the predetermined numerical value comprises a mileage value.

17. The method of claim 9, wherein the alphanumeric text message includes at least one parameter from the numerical data.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the displaying step further comprises displaying the alphanumeric text message on the web page.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises sending an electronic mail message that comprises the alphanumeric text message.

20. A method for monitoring a set of vehicles, comprising the steps of:

i) generating a first data packet from a first vehicle in the set of vehicles using a first wireless appliance disposed in the first vehicle, the first data packet comprising numerical diagnostic data from a computer in the first vehicle;

ii) transmitting the first data packet over an airlink with the first wireless appliance so that the first data packet passes through a network and to a host computer system;

iii) generating a second data packet from a second vehicle in the set of vehicles using a second wireless appliance disposed in the second vehicle, the second data packet comprising numerical diagnostic data from a computer in the second vehicle;

iv) transmitting the second data packet over an airlink with the wireless appliance so that the second data packet passes through the network and to the host computer system;

v) processing the first and second data packets with the host computer system to generate numerical diagnostic data corresponding to the first and second vehicles;

vi) displaying the numerical diagnostic data corresponding to the first vehicle on a first series of web pages hosted on the internet; and

vii) displaying the numerical diagnostic data corresponding to the first and second vehicles on a second series of web pages hosted on the internet, the first and second series of web pages being comprised by a single web site.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the processing step further includes extracting at least one of the following vehicle parameters from the first and second data

packets: numerical data, an alphanumeric text message, an active or pending diagnostic trouble code, a vehicle identification number.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the processing step further includes processing at least one of the vehicle parameters with a database software.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the processing step further includes generating a first set of data that comprises an alphanumeric text message.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the displaying step further comprises displaying the alphanumeric text message on the first web site.

25. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of sending an electronic mail message that comprises the alphanumeric text message.

26. The method of claim 20, wherein a single web site comprises the first and second web pages.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the web site comprises a login web page that comprises fields for entering a user name and a password.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the web site communicates with a database that associates a first user name with a first password, and a second user name with a second password.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the first user name corresponds to a vehicle owner, and the second user name corresponds to a corporate organization.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the corporate organization is a vehicle dealership, a vehicle-rental organization, an insurance organization, or an organization comprising a fleet of vehicles.